"Is it Really a Global Village?"

Notes for Remarks

by

Ivan L. Head

President,

International Development Research Centre

to

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This great university and this community have long contributed to the richness of Canadian life in intellectual, artistic, and economic achievement. I'm proud to be able to participate this evening in the 25th anniversary of an important institution in the fabric of each of London and Western - Westminster College. I'm particularly pleased to be able to do so because of the wise decision of the Executive Director - my friend Ed Tufts - to emphasize in these events the interdependence of all countries and all peoples on this planet earth. It is that theme that I'd like to pursue this evening and am most grateful to all of you for having given up the attractions of your TV sets to listen to me.

Just a few miles from here, at Stratford, the superb Festival production of King Lear closed on Sunday. In Act IV, Lear says movingly to the blind Gloucester: "A man may see how this world goes with no eyes. Look with thine ears." I invite your ears tonight, as I share with you my sense of how the world goes.

...2

This has been an eventful autumn in Canada and in the world. Few of those events have not had broad geographic implications, be they acts of violence in the Mediterranean basin, bank failures in Western Canada, or elections in the Punjab. It is tempting to draw morals from some of them even though the inspiration for that other great Ontario drama festival - George Bernard Shaw - would have scoffed at the suggestion. Though Shaw was above all else a social moralist, he mocked the pretensions of others in that respect. One of the characters in "The Doctor's Dilemma" says, "Morality consists in suspecting other people of not being legally married." In another of his plays, "Man and Superman", Shaw wrote, "An Englishman thinks he is moral when he is only uncomfortable."

Whatever may be the cause, evidence indicates that there is considerable discomfort in certain circles in Ottawa these days. In that atmosphere, the theatre season opened at the National Arts Centre last week. The play? Shaw's "Heartbreak House". If there is a moral somewhere there, it is not for me to draw it.

...3

And perilous as it is to talk about morality after dark, as distinct from the brightness of day, let me offer to you a morality lecture in three parts:

Part I is entitled "I never promised you a vegetable garden", or "man is indeed what he eats (so is woman)."

We are perched here in the midst of some of the world's most productive agricultural land. The rich soils, ample water and moderate climate in this corridor and, to the east in the Niagara peninsula, are resources which have been made immeasurably richer by the contribution of the great agricultural universities such as Guelph. Industrious farmers and enterprising scientists have combined talents to produce immense yields of great value.

All these edibles are a far cry from the foods of ancient Egypt where, mythology tells us, Egyptians were cannibals until the Goddess Isis brought to Egypt from Lebanon some wheat and barley. Orisis, who was both brother and husband to Isis (was life really simpler in the old

days?) taught his countrymen how to cultivate the wheat and how to make beer from the barley. For those feats he is remembered today. His statue stands in the lobby of FAO headquarters in Rome. (FAO is the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.) A plaque describes Osiris as "Food Promoter and Protector of Agriculture in Ancient Egypt." Egyptians, it might be added, have for millennia called their barley beer "booza". In addition to food and drink, they have contributed, obviously, to our vocabulary.

The major food staple in a good many places in the world, and certainly in Canada, is bread, baked from wheat flour. We grow a great deal of it in this country, primarily because plant breeders understand the problems of farmers and because farmers willingly adopt new technologies. Ten thousand years ago, wheat was not the plant we know today, but only one of many wild grasses. By some genetic accident it crossed with a natural goat grass to form a fertile hybrid, combining the fourteen chromosomes of each to produce the new strain with twenty-eight chromosomes. Another genetic accident then occurred when this strain, called Emmer, crossed with another natural

grass to produce a new hybrid of forty-two chromosomes, and this is bread wheat. Yet even stranger than the mutation is the fact that this wheat cannot self-propagate because the ear is too tight to break up, and the grains are too heavy to fly in the wind.

In Bronowski's words, "Suddenly, man and the plant have come together. Man has a wheat that he lives by, but the wheat also thinks that man was made for it because only so can it be propagated. The bread wheats can only multiply with help; man must harvest the ears and scatter the seeds; the life of each, man and the plant, depends on the other. It is a true fairy tale of genetics..."

In the intervening thousands of years, this and other fairy tales have been pursued by countless generations of farmers world-wide. Extraordinary advances have been made. An immense body of knowledge has been accumulated concerning plant breeding, soil science, cropping techniques, irrigation and harvesting systems, and more. Yet at this moment, hundreds of millions of persons subsist on inadequate nourishment. That fact is an explosive international issue.

...6

Today's world-famous Canadian wheats trace their origin back to Red Fife, a variety first produced near Peterborough in 1842. However well suited was Red Fife to the Ontario climate, it was far from ideal for the prairies where early frosts are normal. It was not until the turn of the century that a faster-maturing variety was identified, a cross with Red Fife called Marquis. Until then, the homesteaders flooding into Western Canada were planting, without knowing it, varieties of wheat incapable of maturing within the normal frost-free period of that region; in an average year their crop would fail.

So well received was Marquis that within one year of its introduction into the United States, 500,000 acres were seeded with it. In the first ten years following its release, the total North American Marquis crop was some 300 million bushels.

Similar, extraordinary increases in agricultural production are still taking place, most of them involving cereal such as wheat or rice. The introduction into South Asia of short-stemmed, high-yielding, disease-resistant wheat varieties in recent years has helped to turn India

...7

from an endemic food deficient country in the 1960s into a net food-exporter today. The change, let me emphasize, is the result of a combination of circumstances, only one of them the science-based technology encapsuled within these new seeds. Other factors include a range of circumstances outside the farm gate - government pricing policies which offer incentives to farmers to grow, storage and distribution facilities, credit arrangements, foreign exchange to permit the import of needed fertilizer, etc. Absent this package of ingredients, food production will not increase no matter how efficient is the farmer, how good are his seeds, or how cooperative is the weather.

In the Sudan-Sahelian belt of Sub-Saharan Africa, few of those ingredients are present. Climate, soil and cultural conditions are so different from South Asia that virtually none of the successes there are transferable. Nature has been extraordinarily cruel with severe and enduring droughts in recent years. But drought without more does not lead to famine. Government encouragement of mono-cropping for market or taxation purposes, the absence of a secure monetary system which would give peasants an alternative to animals for the preservation of their

capital, the lack of any energy source other than wood, the disappearance of centuries-old tilling and storage systems - all these have combined to create a famine of awesome proportions.

It is difficult for any of us, living as we do in the midst of plenty, to conceive of circumstances that have broken so completely a primitive but stable agricultural system. Or to comprehend the challenges facing any improvement. African soils are older than Asian and therefore more devoid of nutrients. Africans have less experience in water-management than Asians and so are less able initially to benefit from irrigation systems. For the past decade in Africa there has been no increase in yield per acre for any food crop; there has been no over-all increase in acreage dedicated to food crops. And all this in a continent where population is increasing faster than almost anywhere else. One reason is the high cost of inputs needed to produce reasonable crops; another is the unfavorable pricing system found in so many countries.

And there is another reason, too. A reason so savage in its harshness that it will shock you, I'm sure.

In North America, in the year following a failed harvest, the acreage seeded is greater than in the previous year to permit a restocking of granaries. In Africa, the acreage seeded is less because the malnutrition of the peasant farmers makes them too weak to be able to work.

This is the definition of absolute poverty employed by the World Bank - malnourishment to the point of being unable to work. The Bank uses World Health Organization guidelines regarding the number of calories people need to lead a reasonably productive and energetic life. When one's diet is calorie-deficient, there is not enough energy produced to earn a living. Children become more vulnerable to disease, to be stunted physically and mentally should they survive. By this definition, half to three-quarters of the people living in sub-Saharan Africa subsist in absolute poverty.

The President of the World Bank employed the following examples of their condition in a speech this January:

...10

- In Gambia, over half of all rural children die by age five.

- In Guinea-Bissau, almost the entire population suffers from malaria and diarrhea; 60% suffer from respiratory infections.

- In sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, life expectancy is 49 years, compared with 75 years in the industrialized countries.

- There is only one nurse for every 3,000 Africans, one doctor for every 21,000 Africans. (In Canada we have one nurse for every 107 persons, and one doctor for every 512 persons.)

How many in Africa are at risk because of the current famine? No one is able to say with certainty. David MacDonald, the Canadian Emergency Coordinator/African Famine, has reported to Parliament that in his judgement more than 30 million people are in a life-threatening situation. Between one-third and one-half of the population of the entire African continent has been affected by the

current situation. These are figures too large for anyone fully to grasp their meaning and their horror. I suggest, however, that if the death by starvation of a single child is shameful, or the mental retardation of one person through malnourishment is wasteful and wrong, then the multiplication of those events by factors of several million is at least worthy of our sustained attention and response.

George Bernard Shaw would agree. "The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them," he wrote, "but to be indifferent to them; that's the essence of inhumanity."

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Part II of this morality lecture borrows its title from Ogden Nash who said "Progress might have been all right once but it has gone on too long."

In 1985 we live in a world where hi-tech is in and common-sense often doesn't seem to count. Let me employ a

...12

nuclear example. The current nuclear arsenals of the super-powers contain the explosive force of all the munitions expended by all of the combatants in all of World War II. Times 6,000. Six thousand World War IIs. Does common sense proclaim that that is enough, that we should slow down the nuclear arms race? Not at all. Each super-power claims to be under-armed. Why? Because decent men in white-lab coats, brilliant intellectuals in universities, and aggressive entrepreneurs suggest that technical fixes are possible and that ultimate security can flow out of a laboratory if only enough money flows in. If we were dealing with unshaven pirates promising us safety if only we bought another ship-load of cutlasses and muzzle-loaders, we'd scoff at their claims. And properly so. But somehow we are mesmerized by progress, by scientific systems of mass slaughter. To the point that the United States Government is continuing to build and install MX missiles which the Scowcroft Commission admitted have absolutely no military purpose. At a minimum of $125 million per missile.

Nor are we talking about simple little military engagements such as World War II with only 50 million

...13

deaths. A nuclear exchange of even modest scale would in all likelihood mean the end of all human life, perhaps all biological life, on the entire planet. That is the meaning of Nuclear Winter.

In this autumn of Nuclear Winter, the question which publics and governments are avoiding, I suggest, - the real question - is not one of shineyness, of gadgetry, of modernity, even of decency. It is whether we are able as a species to avoid irreversible error. By that I mean error of a magnitude from which the human race would be unable immediately, or perhaps ever, to recover. It's not a theoretical issue. In more than 5,000 years of recorded history, the human race has encountered - or caused - innumerable incidents of death and destruction: wars, plagues, famines and assorted natural disasters of the magnitude of the cyclone and tidal wave that struck Bangladesh last spring and the earthquake which struck mexico city last month. Recovery periods have extended from days to decades, but recovery there always was. We now face, however, not just a quantitatively but a qualitatively distinct departure point.

...14

Do we possess the wisdom to recognize distasteful truth, as King Lear did when he said to the Earl of Kent: "... that way madness lies: let me shun that."

We have no direct human experience to draw upon for guidance, because never, in five millennia, has any generation ever faced circumstances of global proportions: of possible nuclear cataclysm, environmental degradation, or economic collapse. Dangers from which recovery may not be possible. Circumstances in which margins of error are so narrow as to be meaningless.

These kinds of circumstance will not, unfortunately, disappear simply by addressing more money to them. I hasten to add, however, that a re-allocation of expenditures would not be a bad thing.

- The world, for one example, is now spending more than one and a half million dollars for military purposes every single minute of every single day. The total of the annual operating budgets of the 16 universities in Ontario is much less than world military expenditures in a single day.

...15

- We applaud ourselves about our generous aid programs to the impoverished nations, not realizing that the industrialized nations each year are taking tens of billions of dollars - net - from the developing countries.

But we shouldn't throw up our hands in despair. The human race is certainly not noted for its unblemished record of wisdom but heretofore it hasn't been suicidal. We must remember, however, that that opportunity hasn't long existed. We should remember, therefore, the old Greek saying 'the difference between genius and stupidity is that the former has its limits.'

Nor do we dare forget Goethe's wise maxim that "nothing is more dangerous than active ignorance."

Incidents of human error and stupidity cascade down through history. Recalling some of them may cheer us up a bit; they may also contribute to our realization of the cost of error, error which in many instances was a refusal to recognize unpleasant fact. No one suggests that desertification, wide-spread poverty, or the possibility of

nuclear holocaust are pleasant - on full or empty stomachs. But they are fact, and should not - must not - be denied. Not by ordinary folk like you and me, not by our political leaders.

Fact and friendship are sometimes coincidental, sometimes irreconcilable, but they must not be regarded as identical. To weigh international relationships, or environmental issues, or economic circumstances in simple terms, arrayed almost exclusively on a scale of friendship and ideology is - in the nuclear age - self-destructive. Ideology and dogma have been around for a long time. A prime example of their application and their consequence was the trial of Galileo in the 17th Century.

The denial by the Catholic church for 200 years of the true nature of the solar system did not cause the earth or the other planets to pause for one second in their revolutions about the sun. The denial did, however, suffocate scientific enquiry in the vast realm of Catholicism for two centuries, and gave an opportunity to the protestant nations to gain a predominant position in scientific endeavours. Of this, Bronowski has written:

...17

"The effect of the trial and of the imprisonment (of Galileo) was to put a total stop to the scientific tradition in the Mediterranean. From now on the Scientific Revolution moved to Northern Europe. Galileo died, still a prisoner in his house, in 1642. On Christmas Day of the same year, in England, Isaac Newton was born."

Three and a half centuries following the death of Galileo, there are a number of facts denied or shunted aside by those of us living in the industrialized countries. None of them have anything to do with Copernican theory. Many of them pertain very much, however, to other forms of revolution, ones without astronomical meaning but which are as potentially capable of causing fundamental and far-reaching change as was the scholarship of Copernicus and its defence by Galileo. One of them is the increasing dependence of the nations of the North - in economic terms, in environmental terms, in military terms, and in political terms - on the nations of the South. The extent of dependency varies from country to country and from sector to sector, yet dependency there is. To ignore it, or to

...18

deny its existence, changes nothing but the quality of the protestor.

Is this possible? Aren't we the First World, and the developing countries the Third World? Some of you are probably whispering to your neighbours, as Mrs. Adams said of Henry James: "He chews more than he bites off." Let me take a couple of more bites - to support my argument that this digital, solid-state, post-industrial society of ours is indeed dependent on the developing countries.

Bite number one is environmental. The great oxygen factories of this planet are the immense tropical rain forests which gird the globe between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. Absent them, the quality of our atmosphere - including rainfall patterns - would be seriously distorted. Progress in the form of new lumbering mechanisms and increased demand for hardwood veneers is reducing at a precipitate rate these forest stands.

Every year throughout the Third World an area of forest is destroyed equal to one half of the size of the United Kingdom. Closed tropical forests are decreasing by

...19

10 to 20 million hectares a year according to the best available estimates, primarily as a result of poorly managed industrial logging. Thailand lost one-fourth of its forest cover in a ten year period. Costa Rica lost one-third in ten years. Ivory Coast lost one-third in eight years. If losses of this magnigude are not stopped, a U.S. Interagency Task Force has predicted that by 2025 the world's closed tropical forests "will be nothing but scattered remnants excluding sections of the Amazon Basin and central Africa."

One commentator has decried this destruction. The great forest cathedrals are disappearing he has written, sacrificed in an attempt to satisfy the insatiable demand of North Americans for wood panelling for summer cottages, rec rooms, and fast-food outlets.

Bite number two is economic. A few years ago, progressive banks were encouraging the burgeoning countries of the South to borrow in order to finance their development projects. Then came a series of unexpected circumstances leading to the present high exposures of Northern financial institutions and resultant challenges to their profitability and stability. The foreign debt of South America increased

...20

from 27 billion U.S. dollars in 1970 to 350 billion in 1983. Worldwide developing country debt was estimated by the World Bank in 1984 to be U.S.$686.5 billion, most of it held by Northern institutions.

Current high interest rates affect North and South alike. For the South, needed investment capital flows out, not in; the Latin American region is now a net capital exporter. The developing countries must dedicate excruciatingly high percentages of their export earnings to servicing these foreign debts; Argentina currently uses more than 50% of its foreign exchange earnings to pay the interest on its foreign debt, Chile 45%, Brazil, Mexico and Peru more than 35% each. This means they have less available money to buy goods from the industrialized countries; from 1981 to 1983 Latin American imports decreased by U.S.$44 billion, causing the undoubted loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs in countries such as the United States and Canada.

These markets are not simply marginal to us; they are central to our economic health. Canada sells more goods

...21

to the developing countries than it does to the European Community and Japan combined.

And evidence of a different sort, of the benefits that flow from South to North when a once-poverty stricken nation, assisted by generous foreign aid, is able to develop its economy: last month the Hyundai corporation of South Korea announced its decision to build in Canada a $200 million automobile assembly plant, which will create hundreds of jobs in this country.

Bite number three is security. Since the conclusion of World War II there have been less than seven weeks in which the world has been absent military activity. In that 40 year period, there have been more than 150 wars of an international or civil variety, all but a handful in the developing regions. Several of these have led to direct confrontation between the super powers, the most recent in Nicaragua where we now witness an alarming sequence of huffing and puffing intended to challenge - or confirm - United States hegemony in this hemisphere.

...22

In the nuclear age, as we recall from the Cuban missile incident, and as we are now learning from released Vietnam War documents, any conflict is capable of escalation. And many countries are capable of acquiring nuclear weapons. The Non-Proliferation Treaty was designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. The quid pro quo of the nuclear powers was contained in Article VI. In that article they undertook "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmanent." The three nuclear signatories, the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R. and Britain, continue to breach flagrantly this solemn treaty undertaking. In the meantime, a number of developing countries steadily approach nuclear explosive capability, some of them with links to international terrorist movements.

Twelfth Night closed last weekend at Stratford. In Act III Fabian puts to Sir Toby Belch the thoughts of all of us. "If this were played upon a stage now, I could condemn it as an improbable fiction." Alas, this is real.

...23

What of my other muse, George Bernard Shaw. Did he have something to say about this? I think he did. "Independence? That's middle class blasphemy. We are all dependent on one another, every soul of us on earth." (Pygmalion)

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Part III of my lecture - I assure you, it's the final part - is entitled "The future isn't what it used to be" or "It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark."

In his remarkable book "Supership" published several years ago, Noel Mostert wrote: "It takes at least three miles and twenty-one to twenty-two minutes to stop a 250,000 ton (oil tanker) doing sixteen knots: overlong hulls create different forces of momentum, giving the effect of a lower resistance to the water, despite the awkward blunted shape, and sheer weight seems to augment this and to keep them rolling on and on and on."

...24

Today, it is not only the master of a super-tanker that realizes he is the captive of momentum, that events previously underway limit exceedingly one's freedom of action quickly to change course. Michael Wilson's budget speech last May was a testament to the circumstances constraining him.

Another example, one of global dimensions, is population growth. In the year 1930, the year of my birth, the world's population was about 2 billion. It is now close to 5 billion. By the turn of the century it will be more than 6 billion. The population of the world is expanding at the rate of almost 100 million people per year. That's one new Bangladesh every year. Nor is there any way that this growth can be stopped quickly, even if current fertility rates were decimated, because the average age of most persons living in developing countries is less than fifteen.

Population growth is not necessarily out of control, nor are its consequences necessarily catastrophic, although there are frightening immediate consequences. Adequate food production is one. Demographic shifts is another. In 1960, for example, there were 3 cities in

...25

Africa with populations greater than 500,000. Today there are 28. Population is, unquestionably, an issue of immense global impact; it requires considerable attention and effort now if it is to be modified successfully by the year 2025.

Item: In North America, we have been raised for generations on the assumption that our resources are limitless; that exploitation and growth are synonomous. And for years they appeared to be just that. Only now are danger signs in view, but how many are paying heed? America's largest aquifer, the Ogallala, lies beneath seven states in the plains area. From it, American farmers pump water as part of their intensive cultivation techniques. In 1953, there were 2,000 wells, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. In 1983, there were 70,000. Not surprisingly, water levels have dropped alarmingly, as evidenced by increased pumping costs: from $1.50 per acre-foot in East Texas to $60.00 in less than 10 years.

In Canada, we have a proclivity to building shopping centres and suburbs on our richest agricultural land, denying it forever-after to food production. But we

...26

have so much land, say the developers, this marginal deprivation is incidental. Is it? Not on your life. The recently completed Canada Land Inventory reveals that only 11% of Canadian land is capable of any form of agriculture, less than 5% capable of producing crops, and less than 1% categorized as Class One land with no agricultural limitations. How much is 5% - the crop land area? About the size of Sweden. How big is the Class One land area? About the size of Denmark. Dr. E.W. Manning of Environment Canada has calculated that, on a clear day, a person standing on top of the C.N. Tower in Toronto is able to see 37% of Canada's Class One agricultural land.

Environment Canada has calculated that between 1971 and 1976 irretrievable losses of prime agricultural land owing to urbanization amounted to 38,000 hectares - most of it in the most fertile and climatically wholesome areas: the Fraser Valley, southern Ontario, the Montreal triangle. And where in Canada is urban sprawl continuing? You bet.

...27

Item: Economic fluctuations often occur with blinding speed, but economists understand the significance of what is called the Kondratiev cycle of 40 or more years. That cycle acknowledges the momentum of major economic tendencies. One of them may now be under way, with unpredictable future consequences. For almost 70 years, the United States has been the world's foremost creditor (succeeding Great Britain which bled itself critically in World War One). In the past five years, however, the unprecedented United States current account deficits, combined with historically low U.S. savings rates, have made the United States a net debtor nation. Prior to 1983, the biggest current account deficit that any country had ever experienced in a single year was $15 billion. Last year the U.S. shortfall was more than 5 times that figure. The long-term impact of this dramatic change on the world's trading countries North and South cannot easily be predicted. There is every chance, however, that events now in place will make very unlikely any early adjustment.

...28

In the immediate, where we all live, the results are ironic, especially for the developing nations. When President Alfonsin of Argentina addressed the United Nations General Assembly last September, he recalled the earlier commitments of industrialized countries to transfer 1% of GNP annually to the developing countries in the form of aid. "Paradoxically", he said, "These commitments are now reversed. Developing countries are now transferring not 1%, but 3%, of GNP annually to the stronger nations in the form of interest." What he was saying is that the North is making money off the South; a lot of money.

Item: In nuclear weapons terms there is a current momentum that is bone-chilling. The military-industrial complex predicted by President Eisenhower is now firmly entrenched in a number of countries. In the result, the defence sector is becoming an increasingly significant and influential factor in the industrial strategies of governments. Defence expenditures have become a major, necessary element to fuel the local economy and to provide employment, quite apart from any questions of national security. In the nuclear age this is suicidal for the pressures to acquire exotic new weapons systems inexorably

...29

influence the state of international tensions, as we are witnessing these weeks in Geneva.

Each of NATO and the Warsaw Pact are armed with nuclear weapons which have absolutely no military use, which are uncontrollable if used, and which are under the command of men who have never seen a nuclear explosion and who have only the vaguest concept of the destructive power under their control. A single Trident submarine carries aboard it nuclear firepower of 24 megatons, equivalent to 8 World War IIs.

President Eisenhower understood this peril, and understood as well the linkage between arms expenditures and the needs of humankind. In a speech early in his first term, he said:

> "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its

> labourers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children."

Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, I have overstated my case. Whether I have or not, what can be done to dampen the momentum of these powerful forces that are now determining the fate of the human race? That are now shaping our future? Is it realistic to expect that the major changes necessary can be brought about? Shouldn't we simply accept things as they are?

In the stage adaptation of the novel "Don Quixote", a Duke addresses Cervantes in much that same tone. "A man must come to terms with life as it is," he says. To which Cervantes replies:

> "My friend, I have lived almost 50 years, and I have seen life as it is. Pain, misery, hunger ... cruelty beyond belief. I have heard the singing from taverns and the moans from bundles of filth on the streets. I have been a soldier and seen my comrades fall in battle ... or die more slowly under the lash

...31

in Africa. I have held them in my arms at the final moment. These were men who saw life as it is yet they died despairing. No glory, no gallant words, only their eyes filled with confusion whimpering the question why! I do not think they asked why they were dying but why they had lived. When life itself seems lunatic, who knows where madness lies? Too much sanity may be madness. To seek treasure where there is only trash. Perhaps to be practical is madness. And maddest of all, to see life as it is and not as it should be."

It is that passionate declaration that I leave with you today. I don't pretend that it is easy to see life as it should be, especially when in a single lifetime we have watched with wonder as science and technology have cascaded upon us products as diverse and wondrous as computers, colour film, penicillin, television, earth-orbiting satellites, organ transplants, fiber optics, nuclear weapons, jet propulsion, oral contraceptives, transistors - an endless list of modern miracles that we take for granted as much as if these were our natural

...32

inheritance. It is in this atmosphere of instant communications, of massive means of destruction, of interdependent economies, and diminishing environmental wholesomeness that we must heed those who have sensed not only the immensity of these physical changes but the demands upon us for attitudinal adjustment. The late Barbara Ward captured the technical sense of all this when she entitled one of her books "Spaceship Earth". It was a Canadian, however, the late Marshall McLuhan, who coined so perceptively the most poignant of descriptions of the world we inhabit - "a global village". It is a phrase that each of Shakespeare and Shaw would applaud. It is more than a phrase, however; it is an acknowledgement of individual responsibility. In a village, as McLuhan said in another of his books, "Participation was high and organization was low. This," he said, "is the formula for stability."

It is 1985. Though we may be past the point of no return in terms of organization, participation certainly remains open to us. I implore you to act. It is, after all, <u>our</u> village. More important still, it's the only one we have.

Thank you.